



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

December 14, 2023

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

SEMESTER EXAMS - Students will spend the last four days of the semester taking their fall semester exams between December 15 and 20, 2023. Exams comprise 20% of the student's overall average in the course and cover learning objectives for the entire semester. On each of the exam days, students will take exams in two of their courses and then be released at 1:05 pm, allowing them additional time to study for the next day's exams (see [Fall Exam Schedule](#)). **To preserve a quiet testing environment, we expect all students to remain in their classrooms until the end of the scheduled exam time. We respectfully request that you do not allow your student to check out of school early on exam days.**

ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES - Starting this morning, students were able to see if they earned 0, 1, or 2 attendance incentives for their semester exams by entering their student ID# in a form linked on the homepage the BLEND Bowie Community Course. The instructional support staff in C102 has been available to students who had any questions about the number of incentives they earned. If there are further questions, please review the [Understanding Exam Incentives](#) document where you can also find the unofficial exam incentives calculator.

Keep in mind that for exam incentive purposes, EVERY absence, other than for school activities or partial day medical appointments (coded MED), is included in the total. The absence tally for calculating incentives also includes absences for which a parent or doctor note was submitted (codes ILH and ILP). Tardies also impact eligibility: 5 tardies equal 1 absence for the purpose of exam incentives. Bowie bases exam incentive eligibility on the official attendance codes in Frontline and adheres strictly to the eligibility criteria.

The Final Exam Incentives Claim Forms will be available on the Bowie Blend Community Course beginning Friday, 12/15, and they will close promptly at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, 12/19. Please note that late submissions will NOT be accepted.

LEVEL CHANGE REQUESTS - Students wishing to adjust the level of rigor in a course by moving from the advanced to the academic level for the spring semester must complete a three-step process by **December 20 at 5:00 pm.** (1) Discuss the desire to change levels with the teacher; (2) Submit the Level Change Form; and (3) Parent sends an email to the counselor confirming their consent to a possible schedule change. Teacher committees will review the individual merits of each request to move from an advanced to an academic-level course within the context of staffing, class size, and other factors. **Level change requests are not automatically approved or guaranteed.**



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ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD OVER WINTER BREAK - With many Austin ISD students living in food insecure households, access to healthy food may be challenging when the district is closed. Families can use the community resources below to find free meals in their area while Austin ISD offices and schools are closed for the winter break:

- [Central Texas Food Bank](#)
- [United Way for Greater Austin - ConnectATX](#)
- [Texas Health and Human Services](#) - Call 2-1-1 or (877) 541-7905 to speak to a live operator.

SPRING SEMESTER CLASSES - Spring semester classes will begin on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 with students reporting directly to their 5th period classes at 9:05 am. While most students' course schedules will remain unchanged from the fall to the spring semester, all students are encouraged to check their schedule in the Self-Serve tile for schedule changes. Students' spring semester 5th period classes will also be posted in front of the library when students return to campus to direct them to the correct classroom. We will have extended 5th period that day to check schedules and review expectations for FIT. Our normal FIT schedule will resume on Wednesday, January 10.

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal